

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

031545Z Oct 05

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 ANKARA 005949

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)
SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Gul: Turkey Won't Show Before Seeing EU Framework - Sabah
Blair: Turkey Can Be Bridge Between Europe, Arab World - Hurriyet
Blair: Britain's Iraq Pullout Depends on December Polls - Hurriyet
Patriarch Bartolomew: Turkey is Part of Europe - Hurriyet
Armenian Patriarch Mesrob II to EU: Do Not Exclude Turkey - Vatan
Ties between Turkey, EU at Breaking Point - Aksam
Vienna Barrier on Turkey's Road to EU - Milliyet
'Kurdistan Airlines' Flies Over Turkish Skies - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Michael Rubin: Timing of Hadley, Hughes Visits Symbolic - Zaman
Washington Post: Turks Challenge Hughes on Iraq - Radikal
Talabani Wants Cooperation with Turkey - Yeni Safak
Minister Salih: Iraq Takes Turkey's Terror Concerns Seriously - Cumhuriyet
Athens: We Support Turkey's EU Membership - Yeni Safak
Triple Bomb Attacks Kill 85 in Iraq - Zaman
Local Elections Held in West Bank - Yeni Safak
US Removes Part of Arms Sanctions on Libya - Cumhuiyret

BRIEFING

Hughes Loved Istanbul: US Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy, Karen Hughes, toured tourist areas during her free time in Istanbul on Thursday, "Milliyet" reports. Hughes said she had been 'enchanted' by Istanbul. 'Turkey and the Turks have fascinated me. People here are incredibly welcoming and hospitable. Istanbul is a place that has to be seen. It's a feast of marvelous views,' Hughes said after touring Istanbul's famous tourist attraction Covered Bazaar (Kapalicarsi.) Hughes said she would come back as soon as possible to do some shopping for her house. Hughes said she will prepare an extensive report for President Bush on Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. She departed Turkey for the US on a private plane yesterday afternoon.

Undersecretary Joseph in Ankara: The Bush Administration has stepped up efforts to gain Turkey's support for US policies with regard to Syria and Iran, "Radikal" reports. US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs, Robert Joseph, the third high-level US official to call on Turkey following official visits by Presidential National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley and Undersecretary of State Karen Hughes, will hold meetings in Ankara today to discuss 'nuclear tensions' in the region. Ankara had warned Hadley and Hughes that an intervention against Syria may prove to be riskier than Iraq. Ankara is cautious, and has also hinted to the Americans that it does not have full confidence in the UN-led investigation into the Hariri assassination. The paper claims that Washington is expecting a 'clear Turkish contribution' on the issue.

Hughes Visits Patriarch Bartholomew: Undersecretary Hughes called on the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate on Thursday before departing from later in the day, papers report. Hughes said after meeting with Bartholomew I that the Patriarch was a 'great and prominent' religious representative. A statement by the Patriarchate in Istanbul said that Bartholomew had told Hughes about the importance of reopening Halki Seminary for the education of clergy for the Orthodox Church.

EU Fails to Agree on Framework Document for Turkey: European Union ambassadors failed again on Thursday to agree on a negotiating framework document for the opening of accession talks with Turkey next week, papers report. EU term president Britain summoned ministers to an emergency meeting on Sunday. EU diplomats said that the 24 other countries had been prepared to accept the draft negotiating framework, but that Austria had demanded substantial changes. 'Turkey will not go Luxembourg if we don't see the negotiating mandate beforhand,' Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said on Thursday. 'Both the EU presidency and the member states know there are some elements that cannot be accepted by Turkey. There is a heavy agenda in front of us. But we still have time to resolve the problems,' Gul said. PM Erdogan said that he does not believe that the current impasse represents a 'serious problem' for Turkey. Parliament Speaker Bulent Arinc said that no one should expect the Turkish assembly to approve Turkey's accession protocol before October 3, stressing that the matter will be discussed by the parliament after membership talks with Ankara are kicked off.

Salih Visits Ankara: Visiting Iraq Planning and Development Minister, Dr. Barham Salih, said yesterday that he had brought goodwill messages expressing determination to improve ties with Turkey from President Talabani and Prime Minister Jafari to Ankara. 'Iraq takes Turkish concerns over the PKK seriously. My government will not tolerate armed attacks against any of Iraq's neighbors. The governments of Iraq and Turkey need a wider exchange of intelligence to achieve greater security in the region,' Salih told the all-news channel NTV. Salih met with Energy Minister Hilmi Guler and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul on Thursday. Guler said after meeting with Salih that Ankara and Baghdad will work on measures to ensure the regular oil flow through the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline. 'We see occasional interruptions in the oil flow in the pipeline. We want to change the route of the pipeline to ensure a more regular flow,' Guler said. The Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline has a capacity of approximately 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd), but output has averaged only around 200,000 bpd since 2003 because of sabotage attacks.

Turkmen Party Official Claims Rape of Iraqi Women by US Soldiers: Iraqi Democratic Turkmen Party Chairman Kasim Omer told the semi-official Anatolian News Agency that 25 Iraqi women had been raped by US forces over the past month during coalition operations in Tal Afar. Omer said that one of the women who was raped later became a suicide bomber and blew herself up, killing six others in Tal Afar on Wednesday. Omer showed some photographs to the press, and claimed that US forces had killed scores of innocent civilians, including pregnant women. The US Embassy issued a written statement Friday afternoon characterizing Omer's remarks as 'highly inaccurate' and highlighting the effort being made to repair the damage in Tal Afar and return people to their homes.

New Iraq Abuse Photographs Scandal: Turkish media report that a pornographic website provided free access to some 30,000 US troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan in exchange for photos of the troops with Iraqis or Afghans they had killed. The US military said that it could not verify the authenticity of the photographs, or whether they had been sent by US troops. The military said it saw no reason for further official investigation into the charges. However, a federal justice in the US ruled that the pictures should be made public. The Pentagon has objected to the ruling, arguing that such disclosure will further damage battered US image abroad.

Police Detain Hizb-ut Tahrir Members: A man and his son were arrested for faxing a statement to military units in Istanbul on behalf of the fundamentalist 'Hizb-ut Tahrir' organization, papers report. The four-page statement, entitled 'a call on devout officers in the Turkish military to take urgent action,' was faxed from an electronics shop in Istanbul's conservative Fatih district. An Arabic magazine and two hand-drawn maps were found in the suspects' home. Meanwhile, a man believed to be the head of the Hizb-ut Tahrir in Turkey was detained in Adana yesterday. The suspect is believed to have instigated an unauthorized demonstration by the group during the summer, in which demonstrators called for an end to the Turkish Republic and criticized Ataturk.

Independent Lawmaker Joins ANAP: An independent lawmaker from Turkey's eastern province of Erzurum, Ibrahim Ozdogan, joined the opposition Motherland Party (ANAP) on Thursday, increasing the number of ANAP seats in the parliament to 18. ANAP, which is chaired by former Tourism Minister Erkan Mumcu, needs just two more deputies to form a party group in the parliament. The current distribution of seats in the parliament is as follows: AKP 355, CHP 157, ANAP 18, DYP 4, SHP 4, HYP 1, Independent 7, and Vacant 4.

Kurdistan Airlines Fly between Frankfurt and Erbil:
"Milliyet" reports that northern Iraq's 'Kurdistan Airlines' is now flying between Frankfurt and Erbil over the Turkish air corridor under the name of 'Hamburg International' airlines run by Germans. Turkish officials said the flight over Turkey is probably permitted because Kurdistan Airlines is not written on the plane, and that Turkey cannot legally prevent a flight requested by Germans for commercial purposes.

Two PKK Members Surrender: Two PKK terrorists surrendered to Turkish security forces in Silopi, in the southeastern province of Sirnak yesterday. The militants complained about the 'enormous' pressure on members of the organization, and the 'inhuman treatment' they had been subjected to. They said that many more PKK militants are planning to surrender to Turkish authorities. Meanwhile, security forces killed a PKK member during fighting near Bitlis, Diyarbakir on Thursday.

Turkish Businessman Detained in Iraq: Cuneyt Bozbeyoglu (53), Chairman of the Ankara Industrialists and Businessmen Association (ASIAD), was detained by Iraqi police while trying to enter Turkey from Dohuk. Bozbeyoglu is reportedly being held responsible for the unpaid debts of an ASIAD-member Turkish construction company working in Iraq, "Milliyet" reports. Bozbeyoglu is being kept in the Saray police station in Suleymaniye. The Turkish businessman is suffering from high blood pressure, has a history of heart problems, and needs constant medication.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

"Maybe This is Best for Everyone"
Murat Yetkin commented in the liberal-intellectual "Radikal" (9/30): "Foreign Minister Gul's statement yesterday gave a clear indication of Turkey's position on the EU talks. Prior to the EU membership negotiations, Turkey faces many problems. Gul could not go into detail on these problems, but there is a 'big risk' that many of the conditions are unacceptable for Turkey. It was good for Gul to release this statement yesterday, because some EU countries had been dismissing press reports that Turkey might walk away from the table. I would like to draw attention to a potential trap that Turkey should be aware of. Austria is insisting on a 'privileged partnership' clause in the framework document. Other countries have promised Turkey that such language would not be acceptable. But a *de facto* 'privileged partnership' could be presented to Turkey in this document in other ways. The permanent limitations' mentioned in the final document on December 17, 2004 was essentially a 'privileged partnership' in other words. In the past, EU policy has led to confusion and a need for last-minute solutions. For this reason, Turkey should remain calm, and not send its delegation to Luxembourg before EU leaders reach an acceptable compromise on the framework document. Otherwise, Turkey could face grave consequences."

"Bush's Image Maker Carries a Message from Gul"
Ferai Tinc wrote in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (9/30): "US Under Secretary Karen Hughes told me yesterday that she is taking a message from Foreign Minister Gul to President Bush. She said that Gul's message had made a big impression on her. Hughes said that Gul had explained to her the different attitudes that the Turkish people and the American people have about Iraq: The US considers Iraq, Iran, and Syria as remote countries, while Turkey views them as neighbors. Hughes stressed that she will emphasize these remarks in meetings that determine State Department policy. Hughes added that the purpose of her visit had not been to improve the US image, but to listen to its important allies and ensure that these views are reflected in US policy."

MCELDOWNEY